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Greifswald University

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1. The Institute for Mineralogy and Petrography of Greifswald University was directed by Professor Dr. Rudolf Gross, sixty-five years of age, in cooperation with his wife, Frau Dr. Nora Gross. The Institute, which probably housed the largest collection of stones and minerals in East Germany, had an excellent reputation up to the end of 1945, but did not thereafter retain this reputation. The Institute's activities were paralyzed through Soviet requisitioning of expensive apparatus such as the quartz spectrograph Q 24, several modern X-ray installations, special microscopes, and special furnaces with accessories for the cultivation of oxide monocystals.
2. Prof. Dr. Gross was considered one of the most able mineralogists and crystallographers despite the fact that he has published practically nothing for twenty years. At one time he played a leading role in the activities of the Osram-Studiengesellschaft along with Czechalski and Dr. Marcello Pirani.¹ He was probably one of the very few Germans capable of cultivating zinc oxide crystals approaching an inch in diameter. Such crystals are important for certain control processes. Moreover, as a long-time advisor to the Osram-Studiengesellschaft, he possessed a precise understanding of the physical phenomena in tungsten wire processing. Collaboration with the "Berliner Gluehlampen-Werk" did not materialize for reasons unknown, although the BGM encountered serious difficulties in tungsten wire production which, with Gross's background and experience, could readily have been overcome.
3. As assistants, the Institute had at its disposal at the end of 1952, one mechanic, two female laboratory assistants and one secretary. There was no available supply of older personnel in the form of mineralogists and crystallographers. In 1952, by order of the State Secretariat, mineralogy students were especially to be encouraged, since it was feared that mineralogy would die out not only in Greifswald but also in the other East German universities.
4. As a result of difficulties arising from their former membership in the NSDAP, both Gross and his wife were members of the SED. Both, however, despite occasional opinions to the contrary, were considered to be of irreproachable character. Gross was able to move only with considerable

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effort because of a progressive multiple sclerosis, and the administration of the Institute therefore was difficult for him. His energy was astounding in view of his prolonged illness, and he worked regularly at the Institute every day from early morning on. Because of Gross' progressively worsening illness and partial paralysis, Frau Dr. Gross conducted a large part of the affairs of the Institute.

5. Besides his crystal growing experiments in aqueous solutions (with copper sulfate as the experimental compound) and from the gaseous phase, Gross also collaborated with the Bonstorf-Industrie WEG on the development of domestic sun-dried bricks. RM 15,000 were made available to him by ZAPP for this developmental contract.

1. Comment: See Kuerrachers Deutscher Gelehrten-Kalender for 1950, page 1560, for full information on Pirani.

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